

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were submitted for examination. Claims 1-26 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,952,992 to Frank P. Helms ("Helms") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,205 to Francois Blouin ("Blouin").

Claims 4, 8-26 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helms and Blouin and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0128060 to Belhumeur et al. ("Belhumeur").

103(a) Rejection – Helms in view of Blouin

Independent claim 1 recites in part:

"a camera; and

a display screen, a brightness of which is to be adjusted in response to measuring ambient light, wherein said ambient light is measured by analyzing one or more images produced by the camera."

(Emphasis added).

Helms teaches using a photodetector (PD) to detect a level of ambient light. The Examiner admitted that Helms does not teach using a camera as a light sensor to measure ambient light but indicated that Blouin teaches a light sensor for sensing the ambient light comprising a CCD. However, neither Helms nor Blouin teaches analyzing one or more images produced by the camera to measure the ambient light, as claimed in claim 1.

Applicants submit that, at least for one or more of the above reasons, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Helms in view of Blouin, and that the 103(a) rejection has been overcome. Since claims 2-9 depend from and further limit claim 1, applicants submit that claims 2-9 are also patentable over Helms in view of Blouin.

103(a) Rejection – Helms in view of Blouin
and further in view of Belhumeur

Independent claim 10 recites in part:

“providing a computer system with a display screen and a camera, the camera to produce an image; and
enabling a brightness of the display screen to be adjusted in response to an analysis of the image.”

(Emphasis added).

The Examiner admitted that Neither Helm nor Blouin teach using a camera to produce an image and enabling a brightness of the display screen to be adjusted in response to an analysis of the image.

The Examiner however indicated that Belhumeur teaches an image system having a camera for producing an image, and a computer controlling the display to illuminate the display screen based on an analysis of the image.

The Examiner then suggested that it would have been obvious to modify Helms as modified by Blouin to have the camera produce an image and to control the brightness of the display screen in response to an analysis of the image as taught by Belhumer to determine the ambient light condition.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's suggestion. Belhumeur teaches illuminating different regions (upper right, upper left, central lower) of a display in sequence, using a camera to obtain a set of images of an object being illuminated by the different regions, and constructing a three dimensional model of the object based on the set of images. Belhumeur further teaches that the images are taken with low ambient light so that the differences between the images of the object illuminated by the different regions of the display will be significant. (Col. 2, Sect. 22).

Thus, Belhumeur teaches the ambient light remaining low, and that the illumination of the regions are intended to illuminate the object so that the camera can get a set of different images of the illuminated object. Belhumeur, however, does not teach using the camera to produce an image and enabling a brightness of the display screen to be adjusted in response to an analysis of the image.

Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as claimed in claim 10 would not have been obvious in view of the combined teachings of Helms, Blouin and Belhumeur because there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the teaching of all three references.

Applicants submit that, at least for one or more of the above reasons, the 103(a) rejections have been overcome, and that independent claims 10 and its dependent claims 11-18 are patentable over Helms, Blouin and Belhumeur individually or in combinations.

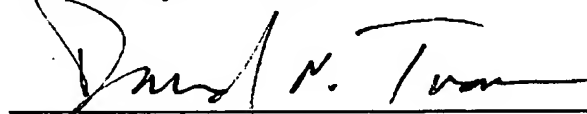
Applicants further submit that, at least for one or more of the above reasons, independent claim 19 and its dependent claims 20-26 are also patentable over Helms, Blouin and Belhumeur individually or in combinations.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call David Tran at (408) 765-4692.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0221 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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